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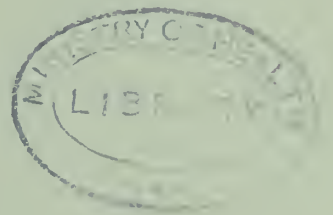
to the

E V E S H A M B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

by

J . J . M U R R A Y , M . B . , D . P . H .

(District Medical Officer of Health)



BOROUGH OF EVESHAM.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health: J. J. Murray, M.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector: E. C. Melton, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: P. M. Jones, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I. (part yr)

" " " : D. L. Evans, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I. (part yr)

Committees Concerned with Public Health Matters.

Public Health Committee: Chairman - Councillor Masters.

Housing Committee: Chairman - Councillor Andrews.

General Statistics.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,958
Population, Registrar-General's estimate mid-1954	...						...	12,110
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1954	...					...	...	3,541
Rateable value at 1st April, 1954	..	...	...	...	...	...	£92,665	
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£370	

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1954.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the health of your District for the year 1954:-

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS:

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Legitimate	104	80	184	
Illegitimate	6	2	8	
	110	82	192	234

STILL BIRTHS:

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
Legitimate	5	2	7	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	
	6	2	8	2

Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population - 15.9 19.5

Still birth-rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births - 40.0 8.5

DEATHS:

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
	62	68	130	309
Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	- 10.7			25.7
Deaths from pregnancy and childbirth	- Nil			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	- Nil			Nil
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
Deaths of infants under one year	1	1	2	9
Deaths of legitimate infants	1	1	2	9
Deaths of illegitimate infants	-	-	-	-

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR:

All infants per 1,000 live births	- 10.4	38.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	- 10.9	39.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	- Nil	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	- 20	46
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	- Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	- Nil	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	- Nil	Nil

Comparison with some of the figures for the whole country is as follows:-

	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>District.</u>	<u>District.</u>
	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Birth-rate	15.2	15.9	19.5
Death-rate	11.3	10.7	25.7
Infant Mortality rate	25.5	10.4	38.5

CAUSES OF DEATH TABLE FOR 1954.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. T. B. of respiratory system	1	1	2
2. Other forms of T. B.	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and para. dis.	-	1	1
10. Cancer of Stomach	1	-	1
11. Cancer of Lungs	7	1	8
12. Cancer of Breast	-	1	1
13. Cancer of Uterus	-	-	-
14. Cancer - Lymph. and other types	4	6	10
Total	12	8	20
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	11	23
18. Coronary Dis., Angina	5	3	8
19. Hypertension with heart dis.	-	1	1
20. Other heart dis.	12	23	35
21. Other circulatory dis.	2	3	5
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	2	1	3
24. Bronchitis	4	1	5
25. Other dis. of resp. system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined dis.	3	9	12
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
34. Other accidental causes	2	-	2
35. Suicide	1	2	3
36. Other violent causes	-	-	-
TOTAL:	62	68	130

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The Regional Hospital Board arrangements for the treatment of infectious diseases and the ambulance system are both working quite satisfactorily.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The quality of the town water supply continues to be quite satisfactory.

Arrangements were made during the year to take water from an additional source in the Middle Hill area to supplement the supply from the springs and the Pinnock abstraction. Owing to the low rainfall during the past 3 years the yield of the springs has gradually decreased and it was necessary to issue a press notice in July prohibiting the use of hose pipes and also warning the inhabitants that it might be necessary to cut off supplies from time to time unless there was a reduction in consumption. It was possible, however, to get through the year without having to revert to this latter course.

Twelve samples water from the chlorinated town supply were submitted to bacteriological examination and chemical analysis with satisfactory results. In addition, twenty-six samples taken at source were submitted and these also proved satisfactory.

The town water has a very slight action on lead but the County Analyst reports that the amount of metal likely to be dissolved under ordinary circumstances would be harmless..

Samples of water used for drinking purposes were taken from two wells on isolated farms in the Borough. Both proved unsatisfactory and an alternative supply of mains water was made available in each case.

Approximately 3,540 houses in the Borough are supplied by piped water and one by means of a stand-pipe following the unsatisfactory sample of well water referred to above.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

During the year a tender was accepted for the construction of the new sewage disposal works for the Borough and work on this project will commence early in 1955.

The Fairfield relief sewer dealing with the drainage from the Fairfield Housing Estate and the new Secondary Modern School in the area was completed and put into operation in September. Consequent upon this, there being no further use for the temporary sewage disposal works at Fairfield, tenders were invited for the demolition of the unit.

The laying of the Fairfield relief sewer has resulted in a further strain being imposed on the existing sewage works and although every endeavour has been made to keep it in a workable condition a satisfactory effluent cannot be produced due to the inability to deal adequately with the volume of sewage at present reaching the works.

The preliminary planning and design of the new low level pumping station at the Abbey Road sewage works was commenced. This pumping station is required to replace the existing station which is worn and inefficient.



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HOUSING.

A further 79 dwellings were completed during the year on the Council's Fairfield Housing Estate making a total of 527 dwellings built by the Council in the Borough since the war, as follows:-

Traditional Houses	...	...	...	...	376
Maisonettes	...	...	...	...	48
Permanent Prefabricated Houses	...	...	...	...	74
Temporary Prefabricated Houses	...	...	...	...	29

					527
					=====

In addition, 31 houses were completed under private enterprise during 1954.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

A survey of houses was commenced in preparation for action to secure the clearance of unfit accommodation in compliance with the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954.

The work was substantially completed and a total of 113 houses are scheduled for demolition under Section 11 and Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspections of premises under the Food & Drugs Act were carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and his assistant.

Meat inspection was carried out at the local bacon factory and slaughterhouse and all carcasses were inspected. Whenever possible ante-mortem inspection was also carried out. Approximately 50% of the inspectors' time was taken up with this work.

RECORD OF INSPECTION AND CONDEMNATION.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed	945	43	273	3,486	38,317
Number inspected	945	43	273	3,486	38,317
<u>All diseases except T.B:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	5	-	3	32
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	222	11	-	67	454
Approx. percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	23.6%	37.2%	-	2.0%	1.3%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	10
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	82	8	-	-	1,198
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	8.7%	18.6%	-	-	3.2%

Amongst the chief causes of condemnation other than tuberculosis was bruising, abscesses, cysts, pneumonia, nephritis, necrotic and distoma livers and cysticercus bovis.

The weight of meat condemned amounted to nearly 24 tons; this was disposed of in the bacon factory's digesting plant or stained and collected by a bi-product manufacturing firm.

Other foodstuffs found to be unfit and voluntarily surrendered were -

Tinned Goods	-	1447
Bottled Goods	-	39
Fish	-	777 lbs.
Cheese	-	96 lbs.
Meat Products	-	133 lbs.
Other Goods	-	62 lbs.
Fruit	-	360 lbs.
Cereals	-	76 lbs.
Poultry	-	71 lbs.

With the exception of the fish, these goods were disposed of at the Council's refuse tip. The fish was utilised for pig food.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of dairymen and purveyors - 4

Two of the above maintain pasteurising plants and the other two are distributors only.

Only heat treated milk is sold in the area and all 45 samples taken proved to be satisfactory. Fifty-nine inspections of dairies and delivery vehicles were made.

FOOD SHOPS AND CAFES.

Grocers, greengrocers, sweet shops and mixed food trade	...	...	...	85
Butchers	...	...	...	12
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	11
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	4
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	3
Cafes	...	...	...	21
Licensed Premises (including Clubs)	...	...	...	38
Total				<u>174</u>

A total of 221 inspections of food shops were carried out and 15 notices requiring structural repairs, cleansing and other hygienic measures were complied with.

The general standard of these premises are regarded as satisfactory.

During the year 54 swabs of washed crockery, cutlery, preparative table tops and machinery were taken to check the efficiency of washing-up methods. Excessive bacterial contamination of crockery was found in four cafes. Detailed investigation of washing-up methods were made and advice given on the use of detergents and sterilizing agents. Subsequent swabbing shewed a marked improvement.

Swabs were also taken at School canteens, the majority of which proved very satisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

Number of premises registered for manufacture	-	1
Number of premises registered for sale	-	52

Fifty visits of inspection were made of premises selling ice cream and the 40 samples taken proved satisfactory.

Only one manufacturer remains in the area; the bulk of the ice cream being retailed is of well known brands.

MANUFACTURE OF SAUSAGE, POTTED, PRESSED, PICKLED AND PRESERVED FOODS.

Eight premises in the Borough are registered for this purpose. Of these two are large concerns manufacturing about 30 tons of sausage per week and distributing the products over the whole of the Midlands and Southern England. Numerous visits of inspection were made to ensure that the greatest care was taken in the manufacture of these products and considerable advice was given on food handling and manufacture to the firms concerned who gave wholehearted co-operation on any suggestion made.

CAMPING SITES.

Six site licences are now in operation in the district and 5 individual caravans are licensed.

Five of the sites are used for caravans and chalets only, the other being used for camping.

Approximately 50 caravans and chalets are in permanent occupation; these are accommodated on 3 sites.

All sites were reasonably well conducted and with regular surveillance no acute problems have arisen in the area from camping.

SWIMMING BATHS.

The public open-air swimming bath at Common Road is municipally owned. Water is derived from the town mains and continuous break-point chlorination and filtration ensures purity. Daily tests for the efficiency of chlorination proved satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect- ions	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	8	3	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	93	70	12	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl'dg. outworkers' premises).	2	5	-	-
TOTAL:	103	78	12	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences:</u>					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	15	14	-	9	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	8	7	-	4	-
	24	21	-	14	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

During the year 3 Outworkers were employed in the Borough on glove making and 15 in the manufacture of spectacle cases. Working conditions were found to be quite satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year, 1954:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to hospital.</u>	<u>Total deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	7	3	3
Dysentery	-	-	-
Measles	4	-	-
Whooping Cough	12	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
	30	4	3

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES
CASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE
YEAR 1954.

	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Infect.	Food Poisoning
Under 1 year	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
1 - 2 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
3 - 4 "	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
5 - 10 "	1	2	2	9	-	-	-
11 - 15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 - 20 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21 - 35 "	-	1	1	-	1	-	-
36 - 45 "	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
46 - 65 "	-	1	-	-	2	-	-
66 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	7	4	12	4	1	1

SCARLET FEVER.

A 7 year old child was notified as suffering from Scarlet Fever in December. Recovery was uneventful.

DIPHTHERIA.

No cases of diphtheria were reported during the year.

WHOOPING COUGH AND MEASLES.

Twelve cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year as compared with 13 in 1953.

The 4 cases of Measles occurred in March and April and affected two households only in the Borough.

There were no deaths from either disease.

POLIOMYELITIS.

No cases of Poliomyelitis were reported during the year.

FOOD POISONING.

At the beginning of July a case of food poisoning was reported and found to be caused by bacillus typhi-murium.

Although investigations were carried out it was not possible to identify the food responsible but as the child concerned was on holiday at the time of onset the probable source was almost certainly consumed outside the district.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year immunisation of children against diphtheria has been carried on actively and a total of 268 children were immunised as follows:-

<u>0 - 4 (inc)</u>	<u>5 - 14 (inc)</u>
210	58

These figures include immunisations carried out by private practitioners.

During 1954 87 boosting injections were also given to four and five year old children.

Since 1940 to the end of 1954 a total of 3,942 children in the Borough have been immunised against diphtheria.

VACCINATION.

Fifty-eight infants were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.

No school closure was necessitated by infectious disease during 1954.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of the 12 new cases of Tuberculosis (as against 16 in 1953), and of all deaths from the disease in the Borough during 1954:-

<u>Age Groups.</u>		<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-pulm.</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-pulm.</u>	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 "	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 "	...	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 "	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 "	...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 54 "	...	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 64 "	...	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
		8	4	-	-	3	1	-	-

1953.

Number of deaths from non-notified Tuberculosis	-	1	2
Total number of Tuberculosis deaths	-	4	4

SUMMARY.

The birth-rate has shown a decrease from last year but is still higher than the current national rate, 42 fewer births being registered.

From the beginning of 1954 deaths of patients from areas outside Evesham occurring at the Avonside Hospital no longer had any effect on the figures for the district and, therefore, the death-rate of 10.7 is a more accurate reflection of Evesham Borough mortality.

There was a satisfactory decrease in the number of infant deaths during the year, 2 as against 9 in 1953.

There has been little change in the incidence and deaths from Tuberculosis.

The Tuberculosis After-care Committee for South Worcestershire - a voluntary body on which the Council is represented - continues to afford assistance to those patients whose circumstances through their illness are exceptionally difficult.

On the above figures it can be stated that the health of the area may be regarded as satisfactory.

I am much indebted to the Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their assistance during the year.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. J. MURRAY.

Medical Officer of Health.



